



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/565,203	05/22/2006	Johan K. Fremerey	26202.460	9283
28410	7590	03/19/2008	EXAMINER	
BERENATO, WHITE & STAVISH, LLC			MUSLEH, MOHAMAD A	
6550 ROCK SPRING DRIVE				
SUITE 240			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BETHESDA, MD 20817			2832	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/19/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/565,203	FREMEREY, JOHAN K.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MOHAMAD A. MUSLEH	2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 January 2008.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. **Claims 1-6** are rejected under **35 U.S.C. 102(b)** as being anticipated by **Suwa JP 360-252820A [Suwa]**.
2. Regarding **claim 1**, at [figs. 1-2] **Suwa** teaches at least one annular permanent magnet [4/9] divided in a circumferential direction thereof at least one location [7/13] into a plurality of segments [6/12], the segments [6/12] spaced apart from one another at the at least one location [7/13]; and an annular binding band [10/11] surrounding the at least one annular permanent magnet [4/9].
3. Regarding **claim 2**, wherein the location [7/13] is embodied as a radially extending slit [fig. 2].
4. Regarding **claim 3**, wherein the permanent magnet [4/9] is divided and spaced apart at multiple locations [7/13].
5. Regarding **claim 4**, wherein the locations [7/13] are distributed regularly around a periphery [figs. 1 and 2] of the permanent magnet [4/9].
6. Regarding **claim 5**, wherein the bearing element comprises multiple permanent magnets [4/9] arranged concentrically with one another, all of which are divided at least one location [7/13] and spaced apart there.

7. Regarding **claim 6**, wherein the locations [7/13] at which the permanent magnets [4/9] are divided and there spaced apart are offset from one another in the circumferential direction [figs. 1 and 2].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claim 7** is rejected under **35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over **Suwa** as applied to **claim 1** above, and further in view of **Koenig US 6,250,577 B1 [Koenig]**.

9. Regarding **Claim 7**, **Suwa** discloses the claimed invention except for that the annular binding band is made from a carbon-fiber material. **Koenig** teaches that it is known to use the carbon-fiber material as an insert or as binding band as set forth at [**c. 2, l. 30-37 and c. 3, l. 6-12**]. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify **Suwa's** bearing composed of a carbon-fiber material insert or binding as taught by **Koenig** since carbon-fiber materials are known to be used as bearing surface as disclosed in the [**abstract**]. Moreover, it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1-7** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Mohamad A. Musleh** whose telephone number is (571) 272-9086. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-5:00 Est. Time) 1st Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Elvin G. Enad** can be reached on **(571) 272-1990**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elvin G Enad/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2832

/Mohamad A Musleh/

Examiner, Art Unit 2832